

EBOR-ARAWANA SCHOOL DISTRICT #917 1898-1965

by Marg Cruickshank

A public meeting of the ratepayers was called on June 15, 1897 for the purpose of forming a school district to be known as Ebor School District No. 917. It was to comprise the following lands: Sections 1, 12, 13 & 24 in Township 10, Range 29 and Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22 in Township 10, Range 28. There were 31 freeholders in the district.

The site for the school was to be one of the following; SE 1/4 of 19-10-28, SW 1/4 of 20-10-28, or NW 1/4 of 17-10-28. The site chosen was the SE 1/4 of 19-10-28. Present at these meetings were Joseph Neily, Ted Powell, F.W. Chapple, Frank Mundy, John Gray, C. Park, Alexander Reed, Rueben Roach, William Davey, Walter Davey, and Willie Connaly.

In January of 1898, it was decided to borrow \$500 to build a school. Four tenders were received; Robert Barton- \$365.00, Ed Parsons- \$381.50, John Middleton- \$430.00, and John Hume- \$328.00. Mr. Hume's tender was accepted. All building supplies were to be provided for him. The schoolhouse was to be 24 X 18, walls 10 ft. from floor to ceiling, 3 windows on each side, porch to be 6 X 8 ft. with two water closets (toilets). The school was to be completed by May 1, 1898.

Trustees met on May 24, 1898, authorizing the municipal clerk to levy by special tax on Ebor School District # 917, the sum of \$150, for school purposes and paying school debentures.

School opened in the summer of 1898 with Miss Mary Groutage as teacher-salary \$30.00 per month. We have no record of how many children attended school at this time. Very often some of the students were older than their teacher. Attendance was far from perfect as many students worked in the fields. The school year started in January, February, or March and finished December the 24th of every year. Later the school term was changed and ran from September to June.

Some of the prices of articles in the early 1900's		
were:	7 school desks and official seal	\$33.15
	Broom	.25
	Water pail	.35
	Tin cup	.10
	Box of chalk	.25
	2 blackboard brushes	.40
	A bottle of ink	.40
	250 lbs. of coal	\$ 1.00

Fire shovel	.25
A pane of glass and a lb. of putty	.30
Insurance on the school for 3 yrs.	\$ 6.00
4 cords of wood	\$ 1.15
Cleaning the school	\$ 1.00
Flag pole and rope	\$10.25

In 1913, the school name was changed to Arawana because a nearby town came to be known as Ebor. This name, Arawana, was chosen by Mrs. F.W. Chapple after an Indian maiden. This name meant "running water".

Several old timers tell about the "Will-of-the-Wisp". Dancing lights were seen after dark, thought to be caused by gases from buffalo bones. This phenomenon was located north of the creek on the SW 1/4 of 20-10-28. A buffalo wallow was located there--a very large stone that buffaloes walked around and rubbed against.

A.P. Stewarts had a race track for horses on the NW 1/4 of 18-10-28. This was a very popular place for people who had horses and was a halfway house, where people stopped over night before continuing on their journey. Mrs. A.P. Stewart also donated the land for Kola Anglican church and cemetery. Her son was one of the first people buried there.

The Ebor Post-Office was located in the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Chapple on the NE 1/4 of 24-10-29.

Highlights of the school year were field days, Christmas concerts, and year-end picnics. Field days were held in Elkhorn and Virden in alternate years. Many days were spent practicing marching, track and field, and playing ball. Students all dressed alike and carried a banner with their school name on it. Many schools from surrounding areas participated. Prizes were awarded to the best dressed and best marching group. Another exciting time of the year was preparing for the Christmas concert. All pupils were involved and put on an entertaining evening for family and friends. Santa came to end the evening with gifts and candy for all the children.

The school year ended (in later years) with a picnic in the school grounds where ball games and races were held. Much food was served and ice cream followed the meal--a real treat! (No refrigeration was available).

Many Friday evenings in the winter months were spent playing cards and dancing. Often a pie or box social was included as part of the evenings festivities. The women of the district would take turns bringing a cream can full of coffee which would be wrapped in a blanket to keep it hot. After lunch the young children would fall asleep on the tables oblivious to the sounds around them. Prizes were awarded for spot dances and to the winners of the card games.

Teachers of Ebor-Arawana (1898-1965)

1898-Mary Groutage	A. Neelin
1899-Edith Marks	Annie Noble
1902-Mary Bowerman	1933-Edith Grose
1904-Amy Durno	1935-Frances McLeod
Arthur Leighton (substitute)	1936-M.P. Glover
1907-Leslie McIntyre	1937-G. Carefoot
1909-E. Ivens	1939-Phillis Ayers
1910-Agnes Stewart (my mother)	1941-Eileen Naylen
1912-Mildred Clifford	1943N. Pittendreigh
1913-Letian Balkwell	1944-Emma Heaman
1914-E.S. Mahon	P. McCracken
Inga Bergstrom	E. Carefoot
Edith Christie	Eretta Lund
Elsie Jones	M. Cameron
A.R. Mitchell	1949-Shirley Gray
B. Bulloch	J. Frazer(sub)
W.H. Smith	1950-Bernice Carson
1923-Miss Sinclair	1951-Gladys Snyder
1924-Miss Sandell	1953-M.E. Rowand
1925-Miss Thompson	1954-Lorne Jamieson
1926-Jean Irvine	1956-Shirley Ivey
1927-J.L. Baldwin	1958-Madge Hull
1928-Verlie Metcalf	1963-Joy Chambers
1929-Agnes Walker	1965-Marion Gordon
1930-C. Frazor	

Teachers salaries ranged from \$30.00 per month up. Annie Noble came to teach with no guarantee of any salary. However, she wanted experience and offered to come for her board. She did receive her salary.

Students Who Attended Ebor-Arawana School #917

Dates are taken from the Archives in Winnipeg. They are not necessarily the year that students started school.

Allan Armstrong	1940		
Elmer Armstrong	1935		
Frank Armstrong	1940		
Glen Armstrtong	1935	D	
Harold Armstrong	1935		
Mervyn Bear	1951	D	
Donna Beecroft			
Floss Bird	1915		
Lawrence Bird	1915	D	
Connie Bolam	1915		Hutchison
Enid Bolam	1940		Gardiner
Ernie Bolam	1915		
Evelyn Bolam	1925	D	Hodson
Harry Bolam	1915	D	
Lloyd Bolam	1930		
Merle Bolam	1937		Lambourne
Gladys Chapple	1930		McKay
Eileen Chapple	1945		Cole
John Chapple	1915	D	
Lorne Chapple	1930		
Marie Chapple	1940		Lung
Norma Chapple	1930	D	
Thelma Chapple	1915	D	Ferguson
Ted Chapple	1915		
Bill Chapple	1950		
Wayne Colins	1947	D	
Beth Cruickshank	1964		Canart
David Cruickshank	1964	D	
Ken Cruickshank	1955		
Lynne Cruickshank	1955		Bajus
Ronald Cruickshank	1960		
Morris Cunningham	1915		
Darlene Day	1950		Smith
Terry Day	1955		
Bernice Dueck	1960		Kroeker
Evelyn Dueck	1960		Martens
Gladwin Dueck	1960		
Leona Dueck	1958		Penner
Mary Dueck	1958		Plett
Mildred Dueck	1960		Dawson
Lloyd Duncan	1950		
Maxine Duncan			Toma
Rosella Duncan	1940		Shepherd
Arnold Ellingson	1950		
Marlene Ellingson	1950		Cantlon

Esther Friesen	1920		
Ruby Friesen	1919	D	
Dorothy Good	1920		
Gordon Good	1920		
Harold Good	1920		
Marion Good	1920		
Nora Good	1920		
Barbara Grant	1964		
Betty Ann Grant	1960		Rattray
Gordon Grant	1960		
Sylvia Grant	1964		Boiteau
Elsie Grieve	1935		Gardiner
George Grieve	1915	D	
Hazel Grieve	1940		Simpson
May Grieve	1940		McKinnon
Alex Grieve	1945		
Robert Grieve	1954		
Rachel Harms	1963		
Stanley Harms	1963		
Barbara Hull	1960		
Peggy Hull	1960		
George Jebb	1945		
Lane Jebb	1945		
Ray Jebb	1953		
George Kilford	1926		
Mary Kilford	1926		Whittle
Millie Kilford	1926		Potter
Muriel Kilford	1926		Peers
William Kilford	1926		
Julia Kiss	1930		
Katie Kiss	1930		
Gordon Kliever	1960		
James Kliever	1964		
Judy Kliever	1960		Sinclair
Bud Lawrence	1916		
Bruce Lancaster	1915	D	
Cleeland Mitchell	1915	D	
Harold Mitchell	1915	D	
Lorne Mitchell	1915	D	
Donna Moore	1954		
Gerald Northcott	1925		
Muriel Northcott	1925		
Betty Ogilvie	1955		Blanchard
Donald Ogilvie	1930		
Douglas Ogilvie	1950	D	
Florence Ogilvie	1925	D	
Harold Ogilvie	1925		
Ken Ogilvie	1925		
Marie Ogilvie	1950		Huculak
Ruth Ogilvie	1930		George
Wayne Ogilvie	1950		
Wilma Ogilvie	1955		Leslie

Alice Perry	1928		Williams
Philip Peltham	1925		
Lena Powell	1916		
Marlene Remple	1955		Kernel
Sharon Remple	1955		Tuckwood
Edith Roach	1915		Bolam
Fred Roach	1915	D	
Grace Roach	1925	D	Walker
Mabel Roach	1920	D	Ogilvie
Mae Roach	1920	D	Day
Agnes Robertson	1953		
Bonnie Robertson	1953		MacFyffe
Donald Rowan	1925		
Gordon Rowan	1925	D	
Ken Rowan	1925		
Merlin Rowan	1925	D	
Ralph Rowan	1925		
Alice Russell	1915		
Edith Russell	1915		
Mabel Russell	1915		
Ruth Russell	1915	D	
Bill Russell	1915		
Fred Shoemaker	1930		
Gerald Shoemaker	1955		
Irene Shoemaker	1928	D	
Janet Shoemaker	1950		Robertson
Lawrence Shoemaker	1930	D	
Nora Shoemaker	1950		McGonigal
Norman Shoemaker	1928		
Robert Shoemaker	1935		
Wes Shoemaker	1955		
Eugene Siemens	1964		
Karen Siemens	1964		Koop
Rosco Siemens	1964		
Florence Simpson	1920		Sararas
Frances Simpson	1920		Ritchie
Patricia Simpson	1964		Walker
William Simpson	1920	D	
Eva Sinclair	1925		Brooks
Lloyd Sinclair	1925	D	
Newton Sinclair	1920		
Jean Sinclair	1920	D	
Rhoda Sinclair	1925	D	
Roy Sinclair	1920	D	
Vic Sinclair	1960	D	
Mae Spencer	1920		
Nellie Spencer	1920		
Jem Todd	1950		
Sandra Todd	1955		Vesey
Alice Walker	1939		Hasyward
Doug Walker (Edtn)	1949		
Doug Walker (Bdn)	1950		

Lloyd Walker	1950	
Doreen Willis	1950	
Lorne Willis	1960	
Marjorie Wiltshire	1915	
Mineal Wiltshire	1915	
Bev Wright		Laderoute

June 29, 1965 was the final day of Arawana School. The students were then transferred to Elkhorn, Kola, and Virden schools.

Remaining money from the Arawana Ladies Club was donated to the Cairn Fund and donations have been accepted from former teachers, students, and residents to erect a cairn in the school grounds in memory of the pioneers, teachers and students that attended Arawana School.

On July 25, 1993 at 2:00 p.m. , an unveiling of the school cairn will take place. The program will be as follows:

Welcome.....	Alex Grieve
Greetings from Province.....	Jim Downey M.L.A.
Greetings from Canada.....	Lee Clarke M.P.
Greetings from R.M. of Wallace.....	Alex Gabrielle
Councillor Ward 2.....	Jim Penner
Unveiling.....	Florence Sararas
	Newton Sinclair
	Ted Chapple
	Harold Ogilvie
Dedication Prayer.....	Lorne Chapple
Greetings from Teachers.....	Emma Allison